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POETRY.

The following beautiful and opportune, are from the pen of our gifted townsmen, Maj. George W. Patten.

THE GOLD HUNTERS.

BY MAJOR G. W. PATTEN, U. S. A.

we come, we come, from a distant clime,
Laden with shining ore,
We have labored long, 'twas a weary time,
But we've gather'd a teeming store.
Our hair is grey and our eyes are dim—
Ere yet our years are old,
We'll laugh at death—yea, we'll laugh at him,
For we've gold, we've glistening gold.

As many months we've moved all day—
To the sound of the trooper's horn,
And we've rested at night where the moccasin lay,

Under our couch till morn;
Silence stalked in our van afar,

Torrents beneath us roll'd,
And tempests above—but our guiding star

Was gold, still glittering gold,

Or this we left our homely hearth

Girt round with grateful soil,
Our harvest fields seem'd little worth,

Tho' they well repaid our toil,
We hard to live upon golden grain,

Or mid golden honey to thrive,
For golden ore we delved the plain

A golden flock of five.

And five we were, from your father-land,

When first ye roamed away!

Here are but two of your fleety band,

The absent where are they?

Yo! one where prairie skies are bright

We laid mid flowers fair,

And one we've left in a shroud of white

Under the Snow King's care.

And one is bound in slumber fast,

(The loveliest of the three.)

Where mountain torrents thunder past,

To join the restless sea;

And our locks are grey and our eyes are dim,

Ere yet our years are old,

We'll laugh at death—yea, we'll laugh at him,

For we've gold, we've glistening gold.

SELECTED TALES.

KEEPING THE TRYST.

A SEQUEL TO "PLAYING AT CROSS PURPOSES."

BY MRS. JOSEPH C. NEAL.

CHAPTER I.

The mid-day train from New York had

arrived at Boston. There was a little bustle at the door of the Tremont House, as

one carriage after another deposited its

dusty burden. Out of the last, stepped two

beautiful women, whose tasteful travelling

dresses, together with the quantity of well

conditioned carpet-bags, baskets and shawls

that were lifted out after them, told that

they were a journey of leisure and enjoyment.

The gentleman who seemed as

their escort left them in the drawing room,

and returned to see that various enormous

trunks were properly disposed of, and then

he entered upon the register the following

familiar names.

Mr. and Mrs. Freeman, Savannah,

Georgia; Miss Josephine Bradford, New

York city."

From this, dear ladies, you may come to a

speedy conclusion, that our old friend,

Clara Cuthbert, now Mrs. Freeman, was on

her bridal tour, and Josephine as first

bridesmaid attended her.

And while the ladies are making a din-

ner toilette, and Mr. Freeman is refresh-

ing himself with a cigar, in the reading room,

we will take a glance in retrospect at the

events of the past winter. Josephine passed

the greater part of it with the Howards, in

Philadelphia. Her brother, the only near

relative of the orphan girl, unmarried and

immersed in business, expressed himself

"thankful to any one that would take Joe

off his hands." Consequently, after she

had officiated as attendant at Clara's wed-

ding in the early part of the summer, she

had accepted the invitation cordially ex-

tended to accompany them to Niagara and the

lakes. Her brother shook her hand very

heartily in parting, and informed her

that she might draw on him for any amount,

without scruple. Every one has a different

method of displaying affection. This was

Henry Bradford's, and we know of some

people who would prefer it to any other de-

monstration.

It was strange how much Josephine had

changed in these few months. Her gentle

quietness of manner, her shrinking from

general admiration, and the total absence of

all coquettish display, perplexed Mr.

Freeman as much as it pleased his little

wife. At first he was disposed to regard it

as a deeper policy, for he could but remark

that she had more admirers than ever.—

The little encouragement received by them

refuted this suspicion, however, and at last

he forgot that she had ever been any other

than the lady-like, dignified woman, whose

sprightly and intelligent conversation made

her a most agreeable travelling companion.

It was now August, and our party, after

having been at Saratoga, the Falls, and the Canadian lakes, were on their way for the promised tryst at Centre Harbor. Mrs. Cuthbert, who had been left at Brooklyn to pass the summer with an old friend, was to join them in Boston, and the Howards had gone on before.

The heavy dinner was concluded.—Clara had driven out with Mr. Freeman on a shopping expedition, and Josephine, who was too weary to accompany them, resolved on a comfortable siesta. She had left a book in the drawing-room while waiting for dinner, a new novel in which she was much interested. So she turned from Clara's parlor, and went in quest of it. At this hour the room was nearly deserted. One little girl with her hair *a la Kenewig*, and two younger children quarreled for the possession of a favorite ottoman.

She was leaving the room before she saw that it had any other occupant, and then she noticed a gentleman, who was leaning by one of the windows, with his eyes fixed upon the street. His face was turned from her, but there was something in his air that re-called past associations.—The soft, close curls that clustered about the well-formed head—the erect and graceful form—and in confirmation of the sudden suspicions, the low voice in which he was humming an air from "Lucia," sent a thrill of recollection through her heart. It was Mr. Lisle, who, for the first time since their parting at Centre Harbor, was before her!

For an instant she stood perfectly still, covering her face with her hands, and then stole away so noiselessly that Frederick Lisle did not know that he had been looked upon by the same large, sad eyes that were even then haunting his memory.

It was quite dark when Josephine rejoined her friends in Clara's parlor. Mrs. Freeman was alone, and exclaimed at the feverish heat of Josephine's hand as she touched it. But Mr. Freeman opened the door at that instant, and Clara flew toward him as if they had been parted for years, instead of for half an hour, and Josephine was spared any farther comment.

"By the way, Miss Bradford," said he, playfully, lifting his little wife into an immense *fauteuil*, "whose name do you think I just spied upon the register?"

With what an indifferent tone she suggested a recent acquaintance!

"Who but your old admirer, and my recent friend Lisle. I've half a mind to cut him for refusing to act as my second, on this recent melancholy occasion," and he glanced toward Clara, who shook her head threateningly. "But, however, as we are somewhat at a loss for beaux this evening, I'll invite him to go out with us."

"Oh! do," said Clara. "I always admired Mr. Lisle. He must be on his way to meet us at Centre Harbor. He promised, I'm sure—" and then she stopped suddenly, for she remembered the unfortunate termination of that boat ride, and she began to fear that Josephine might not be altogether pleased with an arrangement that would bring her in close contact with a rejected suitor.

Josephine's lips quivered, but she did not look up. How thankful she felt for the twilight! She would not have had Clara see the flush she felt rising to her forehead for worlds.

A silent and disagreeable ten minutes passed before Mr. Freeman's return, and then Josephine's heart sank within her, and she felt a chill of disappointment, as his footsteps sounded through the corridor alone.

"That Lisle has grown to be the most incomprehensible fellow," were his first words. "He hoped to pay his respects to Mrs. Freeman in New York; but is very much fatigued this evening and has a thousand engagements into the bargain.—According to his account he must have as many friends as Josephine has lovers, and a separate appointment with every one of them. I vowed he had not forgiven her rejection, whereupon he blushed like a girl, and began asking about Mrs. Freeman's health with the tenderest anxiety.

"Of course then he is not going to meet us at Centre Harbor."

"He might—he could not say. He had promised to meet his sister at Philips' Beach to-morrow. Could not tell when he should get away. Miss Chester, the heiress we met at Centre Harbor last summer, you know, is one of the party, and I'm half inclined to think he's engaged to her."

Poor Josephine! She knew he did not love her; that all these glances, these

recall were counterfeited. She could not allow herself to dwell upon the thought of him for an instant, or on what he might have been to her, but for her own folly.—There was mortified pride mingled with her regretful tears that night, for she plainly saw that he avoided her, and still believed that she had wilfully coquettishly through all their former acquaintance.

"How unwomanly I was," she thought, turning from the window where she had been watching the moonlight glide over the comparatively quiet streets. "Yet day after day he came to my side. He certainly looked all the affection I had hoped he felt. But it was just, and I must brave the punishment. How often have I deceived others. How often have these eyes looked

II
Her punishment had indeed been severe. For once she had felt the regard she had so often thoughtlessly assumed, and the lesson taught by its misapprehension she could never forget. Again and again had she recalled that scene, and as often hoped that he would some day know all, and—could she hope for it?—even love her.—The soft, close curls that clustered about the well-formed head—the erect and graceful form—and in confirmation of the sudden suspicions, the low voice in which he was humming an air from "Lucia," sent a thrill of recollection through her heart. It was Mr. Lisle, who, for the first time since their parting at Centre Harbor, was before her!

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CALIFORNIA NEWS.

31st CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, Jan. 31.
HOUSE.—Mr. Wood announced the death of Mr. Dickinson, a member of the last Congress from Ohio, and elect to this, who died in Washington last March. Deceased was born in Massachusetts. The usual resolves were passed. Adj.

WASHINGTON, Friday, Feb. 1.
HOUSE.—Resolutions instructing the Committee on Indian Affairs to inquire into the expediency of extinguishing the Indian title to the territory lying west of the Cascade Mountains, in Oregon, and removing the Indians east of these mountains; to inquire into the propriety of creating there an Office of Superintendent of Indian Affairs; to inquire into the plan for the proper management of the Indians. Adopted.

The Legislature of California met at San Jose on the 15th of December. There being no quorum in either House, both adjourned to the 17th. On that day fourteen Senators and thirty Assemblymen, were in their seats. On the 18th the Standing Committees were appointed, some contested seats disposed of, and the State canvas was officially examined. The convention of the two Houses then formally declared Peter H. Burnett duly elected Governor and John McDougal Lieutenant Governor of the State of California, and that George W. Wright and Edward Gilbert, are chosen as representative in Congress. The inauguration of the Governor took place on the 20th of December, in presence of the two houses. Immediately after the oath of office had been administered Gov. Burnett delivered the Inaugural Address. At four o'clock the same afternoon, the election of U. S. Senators took place. Col. J. C. Fremont was chosen on the first and Dr. Wm. M. Gwin on the third balloting.

On motion it was agreed to proceed to the election of Chaplain, and on the last ballot, Mr. Gurley was elected.
Adjourned till Monday.

WASHINGTON, Monday, Feb. 4.

SENATE.—Mr. Cass presented a memorial to establish some mode of settling national difficulties without resorting to war.

Numerous petitions and resolutions of were received, among which was one to repeal or modify the Tariff of 1846.

After some debate relative to priority of business, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of the census bill.

After a long and tedious discussion without coming to any vote, the Senate, at a quarter past four, adjourned.

HOUSE.—Mr. Root's resolution, instructing the committee on territories to bring in bills prohibiting slavery, was first in order. The previous question was moved, pending which Mr. Harlan moved to lay the resolution on the table.

Mr. Root demanded the yeas and nays, which were ordered and resulted in the resolution being laid on the table, yeas 105, nays 79.

Another ineffectual effort was made to change a Doorkeeper. A large number of bills, resolutions &c. were offered and referred to appropriate committees, after which the House adjourned.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, Feb. 5.

SENATE.—The galleries, reporters' desks, lobbies and every avenue in the Senate are densely crowded with ladies, who have assembled to hear Mr. Clay.

Several petitions and reports from committees were received. On motion the Senate took up Mr. Cass's resolution in relation to suspending diplomatic intercourse with Austria. Mr. Foote moved to amend by adding two resolutions sympathizing with the heroic struggles in Hungary, and inquiring into the propriety of giving the Hungarian exiles a quantity of public lands. Adopted. Mr. Soule submitted an amendment, directing the Committee of Foreign Relations to enquire also into the expediency of requesting the President to intercede with the government of Turkey for the liberation of Kossuth and other Hungarian exiles. On motion the resolution, as modified, was ordered to be printed, and made the special order for Monday next.

The Senate proceeded to the consideration of the special order—the resolutions submitted a few days since by Mr. Clay.

Mr. Clay arose to address the Senate. After a few remarks in relation to the feelings of self-distrust with which he rose to address the Senate upon a question of such great and vital importance he proceeded with a brief statement of the various causes of danger which now threaten the Union. Having concluded, he yielded to a motion by Mr. Foote to postpone the further consideration of the subject until to-morrow, which was agreed to, and, on motion, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.—Mr. Morton announced the death in July, of Hon. Alex. Newman, member elect from the Wheeling district of Virginia. He pronounced a brief eulogy upon his character. Resolutions of regret, and to wear crape for thirty days, were passed, when the House adjourned.

WASHINGTON, Wednesday, Feb. 6.
SENATE.—Several bills were presented and referred.

The Senate resumed the consideration of Mr. Clay's resolutions, and Mr. Clay arose and continued his remarks. When he had concluded the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.—After some unimportant business a resolution was adopted relating to the Indians on the frontier of Texas.

The Senate's joint resolution to purchase the manuscript copy of Washington's Farewell Address, was taken up. A running debate ensued, after which it was adopted, yeas 105, nays 45.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole, and the resolution in relation to means for collecting the revenue for the present year was announced as an order.

Mr. Morton consumed an hour defending himself from a newspaper attack.

Mr. Vinton submitted an amendment, and the House adjourned.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, Feb. 7.

SENATE.—Mr. Hunter announced the death of Mr. Newman and offered mourning resolutions. Mr. Cass suggested that the Senate adjourn in this case, and adopt rules applicable to the future, which, after debate, was agreed to, and the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.—A report was accepted in favor of appropriating land in Oregon for free negroes.

Mr. Bayly moved to terminate debate on the revenue bill at two o'clock to-morrow. Carried.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the revenue bill. After speeches from Messrs. Vinton, Jones, Winthrop and Toombs, the Committee rose, and the House adjourned.

BY THE MAILS.

GREAT COTTON SPECULATION.—It is stated that a greater speculation is at this time raging in cotton than has been known since the great speculating year of 1825.—The New Yorkers in particular have the fever in its most violent form. The article has risen, in that market, two cents per pound during the last two weeks, and at the rate of a quarter of a cent per pound each week for the last sixteen weeks. It is now just 100 per cent. higher than it was a year ago. The sales are chiefly to speculators, who become excited and continually bid up the market against each other.—For the present, foreign orders have ceased—the New York price being several cents in advance of the Liverpool market. On the strength of this circumstance, the Hartford Times states that several Boston speculators have sent out an order to purchase 25,000 bales in England; and there is also a rumor that a combination was formed in New York to dispatch an agent with funds, and sweep the Liverpool market clean of the article. The low interest of money abroad (14 to 2 per cent. per annum) favors an operation of this kind, and if carried out it will astonish John Bull somewhat.—*Lowell Courier.*

THE WETMORE DEFALCATION.—Washington, Feb. 4. The treasury department has agreed to accept for the present, \$90,000 of the deficiency of Gen. Wetmore, with bonds for \$20,000. The remainder, about \$77,000 is to lie over until a decision is had upon the Boston case. This \$77,000 includes the extra commission claimed by Mr. Wetmore upon disbursements during the Mexican war. The last account rendered by Mr. Wetmore was made up to the 31st Dec., 1848. This account shows a balance against him of about \$120,000. Between Dec., 1848, and the time of his removal, the balance against him increased to upwards of \$180,000. Mr. Jos. L. Hoyt of New York, is in Washington, at the friend of Mr. Wetmore, and he has offered to pay up \$90,000 without any stipulation of immunity.

IMPROVED MATTRESS.—The Philadelphia Ledger says that Mr. John Y. McElvee, of that city, has invented a spiral mattress, made of springs similar to those used in our best sofa bottoms, and which, with a thin covering of hair gives to the whole, when completed, all the elasticity of the ordinary mattress, and the softness of a feather bed. There are used in its construction about fifty wire springs, flaring at the top and bottom, which are set at regular distances apart, and in such numbers as to bear, without losing their elasticity, the required weight to be put upon the mattress when finished. These springs are strongly secured in their places by cords, and are covered at the top and bottom with canvas of suitable strength, upon which is spread a coating of curled hair, the whole covered with ticking, resembling, when completed, a well-made hair mattress. Thus is furnished, mainly of iron, an article of domestic use, for which the softest materials have heretofore been deemed indispensable, and which, being besides much cheaper than the featherbeds and mattress, is even lighter, more lasting, easier handled, and from the fact of its being more open to the air, is less likely to become compact or sodden, a matter esteemed of great advantage in the way of health. It seems very complete, and looks like meeting with large favor, especially at the hands of the women.

N. Y. Far. & Mechanic.

NOT BORN TO BE DROWNED.—The following strange story is related in the Baton Rouge Gazette:—“A very singular, or rather very extraordinary escape from death occurred to one of the deck hands of the steamer Magnolia on her last trip from New Orleans. The man alluded to was sitting on the bow of the boat asleep, when he fell overboard and slipped under the boat. The next instant he was picked up by the paddle of the wheel, and safely, and without injury deposited in the wheel-house. So soon was all this done, that he woke up very much astonished at the cold bath he had undergone, but entirely ignorant, until informed, of the curious revolution and fearful escape from death through which he had passed.

SOOP BURNED.—The sloop “Domestic,” one of the regular packets between New York and Norwalk, bound for the former place, with a deck load of hay and straw, was burned nearly to the water's edge on Wednesday last. When Stamford, flames were discovered issuing from a portion of the vessel, and finding all their efforts to save her in vain, the crew scuttled the vessel and took to the boats. About the time the Domestic passed through the draw-bridge at Norwalk, a train of cars passed along, and it is believed that the fire originated by a spark from the locomotive. There was no insurance on the vessel or cargo.—*New Haven Journal, Feb. 2.*

THE DRURY TRIAL.—The Drury trial was concluded at New York on Friday evening. The judge, in his charge, said nothing had been presented on the trial, in the way of threats or otherwise, to lead to the impression that any third party had been instrumental in sending the box to the house, and the question for the jury is whether it was sent by Drury or through the procurement of Mr. Warner himself. After being out all night the jury were unable to agree, and were discharged.

A FEARFUL FALL.—About 5 o'clock yesterday morning, an Irishman employed in the stables connected with the New York Hotel, arose in his sleep and reached the roof of the barn, where he fell through the sky light, a distance of 50 feet, and landed on the back of a horse. He received some severe cuts but not of a dangerous nature.

MRS. NIAGARA MILLER.—Mrs. Niagara Miller passed through Lynchburg, Va., on the 27th, under the escort of a person who called himself George H. Williams. The lady having been recognized immediately left for Liberty, a village about 20 miles distant.

IMPORTANT DECISION OF THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA, RELATIVE TO DIVORCES BY THE LEGISLATURE.

Judge Coulter, of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, yesterday delivered the opinion of that tribunal in the case of Jones vs. Jones. That decision in fact establishes that divorces by the Legislature, for causes within the jurisdiction of the Courts, in divorce cases, are unconstitutional and null. The effect of this decision will be to invalidate the seven-eighths of the divorces granted by the Legislature since 1836. The practice has been very loose, and divorces have been granted in cases where the reasons have been frivolous, and the causes alleged such as were entirely within the jurisdiction of the Courts, if application had been made to them.

The constitution of the state restricts the powers of the Legislature, in divorce cases, to causes not within the jurisdiction of the Courts. These tribunals have authority to grant divorces a *vinculo matrimonii* in cases of impotency, bigamy, adultery, wilful desertion for two years, and cruel and barbarous treatment; and save incompatibility of temper, these are almost the only causes for which a divorce would be sought. The Legislature, however, have divorced parties without regard to the fact whether the Courts have authority to divorce for the alleged causes.

In the case just decided, Mrs. Jones, the wife, applied to the Common Pleas of Bucks County, where she resided, for a divorce, on the ground of cruel treatment. The husband resisted, and upon trial the issue resulted in his favor, and the divorce was refused. Afterwards the wife applied to the Legislature, without the knowledge of the husband, as he alleges, and an act divorcing the parties was passed. The wife then brought an action of ejectment against the husband, to recover possession of property which belonged to her, but in which the husband claimed a life estate, by virtue of the marriage. The husband offered to show the Court that the divorce was granted by the Legislature for the same cause as was previously adjudicated upon in the Court. This evidence was overruled, and the case went to the Supreme Court on that point.

Judge Coulter said that the plaintiff invoked an interpretation of the constitution, and to reach that it was necessary to leap over an act of Assembly. In England, Parliament granted divorces for adultery. But that body proceeded with the utmost circumspection, and acted as a Court examining into the proofs and allegations and requiring the fullest testimony. In this state, the Legislature acts as if the granting of divorces was an exercise of legislative power; but such a doctrine may well be questioned.

The amended constitution expressly prohibits the Legislature from granting divorces where the Courts have power. It has a limited jurisdiction, with an express prohibition outside of the limitation. The act in this case merely divorces the parties, and annuls the contract, without assigning any reason. It does not appear from the act whether the cause was one within the legislative power or not. The position that we cannot go behind the act, to obtain the reasons why it passed, is not sound. It is the duty of the Courts to guard the constitution against violation. The Legislature has but a limited power in divorce cases, and it has no right to annul the constitution. It would require but a slip of the pen to leave out of the act the cause for which the act was passed, and it would then become unconstitutional.

The Legislature never summons or gives

notice to the parties, and acts upon *ex parte* testimony merely as a legislative matter. In such a case it must affirmatively appear that the Court had jurisdiction, otherwise it is *coram non judice*. In Kentucky, it has been decided that a divorce by the Legislature is a judicial act. The defendant had a right to establish his case, and the evidence offered to show how the act of the Legislature was procured ought to have been admitted. The Legislature not having on the face of the act expressed the cause upon which it was granted, the matter is thrown open for judicial inquiry. The judgement is reversed.

Judge Burnside gave notice that he dissented from the opinion of the majority of the Court. It will produce incalculable injury, and he dissented from it entirely, from beginning to end.—*Phil. Ledger.*

CONNECTING THE TWO OCEANS.—The President of the Mexican republic has strongly recommended congress to appropriate one million annually for four years for the cutting of a canal at Tehuantepec that will connect the two oceans, and float a ship of 1000 tons. The legislature at Vera Cruz has voted \$750,000 as being its quota towards the grand design. The financial embarrassments of the government will probably prevent the recommendation being successful.

LARGE TREES.—We referred a day or two since, to a very large tree in California which measured thirty-six feet in circumference and twelve feet across the stump. Probably the largest tree in the world is to be found in Mexico. The banyans and cypresses in particular grow to an extraordinary size, and there are pines between Puebla and the city of Mexico, much taller and larger than any in New England—or at least than any we have happened to see.

At the foot of Chapultepec is the famous cypress of Montezuma. It measures

forty-one feet in circumference and fifty-one over some of its excrecence, and from fourteen to seventeen feet in diameter! It is a monster to behold—a monarch of the wood—and its regal crown is tasseled as if with silver threads, which glisten in the sunlight, like the twigs of one of our trees, when the morning finds them covered and interlaced with icicles or new snow.—We presume there were more canes made from branches of the Montezuma cypress, by Americans in Mexico, than from the flag-staff of Chapultepec, or any other of those objects of interest which the knife of Yankees abroad is always sure to lay under contribution.—*Lowell Courier.*

THE MORMONS OF SALT LAKE.

A correspondent of the New Orleans Crescent, of the 18th ult., writing from Salt Lake, and speaking of the people, says:—“They are from every State in the Union—healthy, though pale and poor about the face, cheek bones apparent. They are industrious and temperate in the use of ardent spirits. Probably one reason is the high price of it, (as one-half of the selling price of liquor sold here has to go to the city.) They claim no allegiance to the United States, but call themselves Mormons, and many think they are in a Mormon country. They are generally ignorant, and seldom think for themselves, except it is in driving a bargain, but appear enthusiastic as regards their faith. There is a great number of settlers from Alabama and Mississippi, who have come to this place with their negroes, and hold them here as they did formerly. The successor to Joe Smith, Brigham Young, is about 45 years old. He has the largest number of wives of any in the settlement—only twenty-six. This is not a large number, considering he had to take all the wives of Joe Smith that could not get other husbands. Some that have come under my observation have had eleven, five, three, two and one. These things are facts, beyond cavil; and the only tie that binds these people together is bigamy. The spectacle is revolting, and in the course of a few years there will be a dozen children, all of the same age, having the same father but different mothers. To what part of the world can they go and be respected?—Nowhere. To be a Mormon is all that is base and vile. All the ties that bind the opposite sexes together in mutual confidence and affection are trampled under foot by designing men, to gratify their own lustful passions, and the ignorant think they cannot be doing right without following the example of their high priest, Young, and their twelve apostles. The Mormons have to give one-tenth of the products of their farms or other business to the church, and also the tenth working day the whole year, making twenty per cent—a pretty heavy tax most people would think. The object is to get as much money into the treasury as possible, so as to be able to carry out their plan, which is, to have a line of settlements to the Pacific from this place, having its terminus in the southern part of Upper California, hoping to be able to disseminate their religion in the newly acquired territory.

NEW ENGLAND ENTERPRISE.—Within a few days past a new, beautiful modelled and substantially built ship of large capacity, thoroughly equipped and provisioned for a long voyage, has arrived at this port. There is a history of brave men and devoted women connected with this ship, that will make her memorable as long as she withstands the perils of the deep or the ravages of time. She was built in a remote corner of the state of Maine, without money and without credit. The originator of the enterprise, Capt. George Kimball of Frankfurt, whose name deserves to be remembered, is a man whose only capital was his energy, industry, integrity and kindly disposition. He had determined, with the aid of poor men like himself, to build and equip a noble ship, in which he and others, with their wives and children, might sail for the coast of California or Oregon, and there make a settlement for themselves and their posterity. For this purpose he proceeded to the village of Cutler, that, at a distance from men of business and of capital, he might pursue unmolested the work to which he had devoted himself.

Here, alone, a company of one, without capital, in a forest, at a distance even from deep water, he commenced his noble enterprise. He was soon joined by a single man, in a few weeks others followed; women contributed provisions, and the farmers sent in cattle, which were bartered for materials for ship building. The novelty of the undertaking attracted adventurers from a distance, and experienced ship builders and joiners arrived to give their strength and skill to the work. All who aided in the enterprise, whether men, women or children, received their proportionate share in the ship. In April last the work was commenced, and in November she was launched, a splendid ship of more than six hundred tons burthen, and christened the “California Packet.” She is now in Boston with her passengers on board, those who built and own her, and to whom she is now a home. We need not say that the men and women who compose this company are specimens of our New England population, to whom we can refer with pride.—*Boston Transcript.*

SINCE THE ARREST OF DR. WEBSTER.—Dr. Webster, on a charge of murder, his family at Cambridge have received numerous letters from various sections of the country—some of them anonymous, and others with apparently real signatures—offering (for a remuneration of from \$50 to \$200, to be enclosed to the writer) to suggest modes of defense and to insure the acquittal of the accused.

Some of these letters appear to be *bona fide* epistles from members of the bar in remote sections of our country; and the suffering family of the incarcerated Doctor are not only bored to death by such shameful letters, but are exposed to an ordinary tax for the postage thereof.

Boston Herald.

COMMODORES STUART, READ, SHUBRICK, PERRY AND KEARNY.—Captains Stringham, McKeever, and others, to make up the number of thirteen, have been ordered to assemble at the Brooklyn Navy yard on the 14th inst. to try Com. Cooper for coming home from the African station, without being ordered.

PENA Y PENA.—The eminent Mexican lawyer, who was President of that republic at the close of the late war, and made peace with the United States, has just deceased.

It is said that a manufacturer in Worcester has made by the sale of six-barrel pistols in California upwards of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

Messrs. HOE & CO.—Messrs. Hoe & Co. have contributed \$100 to the sufferers of their family.

A most terrible and fatal Explosion occurred at New York on Monday evening last in a six story brick building, No. 8 Hague street, occupied by Messrs. Taylor & Co., for the manufacture of Printing Presses, and St. John, Bur Co., hat-makers. The following particulars of this sad affair are gathered from New York exchanges:—

The boiler by which the explosion caused, was upon the first floor. It was not new having been used before by Taylor, but given up because too small and used on board a steamboat. The operations requiring motive power having been diminished lately, the boiler was laid back and put in use. The moment the explosion took place the entire mass of building was upheaved and fell with a tremendous crash, almost

NEWPORT MERCURY.

NEWPORT.

SATURDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 9, 1850.

The General Assembly.

We take the following account of their proceedings, from the *Daily Journal*:

PROVIDENCE, Friday, Feb. 1.

SENATE.—An act in relation to insane persons; passed and referred.

A resolution instructing the Committee on Education to inquire into the expediency of an appropriation for the education of imbecile and idiotic children of indigent parents; read and passed.

The Senate then proceeded to the order of the day—the School Act, which was considered and informally laid upon the bill.

A resolution to appoint a committee to take possession of the books and papers of a commission, under the act of 1842; passed.

An act in amendment of an act to provide additional revenue for the State; passed. Adjourned.

HOUSE.—An act to establish the office of Auditor of Accounts. The bill was debated at some length and laid on the table—Ayes 40. Noses 20.

An act in amendment of the Militia Laws; reported by the special committee whom referred; passed to a second reading.

An act to regulate the assessing and collecting of taxes; the bill was taken up by sections and read as far as the seventh section, when the House adjourned.

PROVIDENCE, Saturday, Feb. 2.

SENATE.—The Senate proceeded to the order of the day, being an act to revise and amend the laws regulating the Public Schools; when Mr. Ballou moved that it be laid upon the table, for the purpose of taking from the table and considering the resolution reported by the Joint Committee on the State Prison and Providence County Jail. The vote was taken, and the Senate being equally divided, the chair voted in the affirmative. So the order of the day was laid upon the table.

The Senate then proceeded to the consideration of the resolution, which was read, amended, and passed.

The Senate then proceeded to the order of the day—the act in relation to Public Schools.

The reading of the bill by sections was finished.

The Senate then adjourned to meet on Tuesday morning.

HOUSE.—An act in amendment of an act for the preservation of certain useful birds. The bill was a second time read and passed.

An act in amendment of an act, entitled "An act to provide additional revenue for the State"; read and passed by the Senate; in the House read and concurred.

The House adjourned to meet at 10 o'clock, Tuesday morning.

PROVIDENCE, Tuesday, Feb. 3.

SENATE.—Resolution appointing a committee to procure a block of Cumberland granite four feet long, two feet high, and one and a half feet wide, for the Rhode Island contribution to the Washington Monument; to have the same properly cut and polished, and the arms and name of the State cut thereon, and to take the requisite measures to send the same to Washington; read and passed.

Adjourned.

HOUSE.—Resolution for a committee to take the books and papers of certain commissioners upon claims, and upon the payment of the soldiers under an act of June, 1842, and deposit them with the Secretary of State; read and concurred.

Resolution appointing a committee to construct a work-shop, and to make the necessary alterations and additions to the Jail in the county of Providence; read and concurred.

A resolution was passed to appoint a committee to report what business requires to be perfected at the present session.

Resolution in relation to the contribution of this State to the Washington Monument; read and concurred.

Petition of firemen of Pawtuxet for amendment of charter; granted and act passed.

An act in amendment of an act, entitled "an act in amendment of an act, entitled, an act for the relief of poor persons confined for debt; reported by the judiciary committee; read a second time and passed.

An act to regulate the assessing and collecting of taxes. An amendment was offered, and a long debate ensued, when the amendment and bill were laid upon the table. Adjourned.

PROVIDENCE, Wednesday, Feb. 6.

SENATE.—The Senate were occupied in considering the School Bill. The amendment increasing the State's appropriation to \$50,000, and releasing the towns from the obligation to raise one third, was adopted by a large vote. Adjourned.

HOUSE.—Petition of Merchants Bank of Providence, for increase of capital to the sum of one million of dollars.

The report of the committee upon this petition recommend the granting of the petition, upon the condition, that at least two hundred and fifty thousand dollars of said increase be paid in, on or before the 15th of May, 1850, and no further increase to be allowed unless the balance of 250,000 dollars be paid on or before the 15th day of November, 1851, and upon the further condition that said bank pay as a bonus, three per cent, upon the amount of its increase of capital stock actually paid in, on the first Monday of June next after such increase.

Mr. Ames, from the committee arose for the purpose of stating the grounds of the committee, or at least a majority of the committee, in recommending the prayer of the petition.

When he had concluded Mr. Updike

moved an amendment to the act of the committee, to add a section which makes the stockholders liable after the property of the corporation has been exhausted. It being seconded, a debate took place which lasted the whole day, when the vote was taken upon the amendment and adopted—Ayes 39. Noses 17.

The petitioners then asked leave to withdraw their petition which was granted, and the House adjourned.

PROVIDENCE, Thursday, Feb. 7.

SENATE.—Mr. Greene presented an act in amendment of an act concerning dogs; passed and referred.

The Senate then proceeded to the order of the day, the School Law, and the question being upon its passage as amended, the bill passed.

Message from the House, with an act in amendment of an act entitled an act enabling Town Councils to grant licences &c.; passed.

The Senate concurred in the following petitions and acts of the House; of Aquidneck Company for charter; of Blackstone Canal Bank, et al, for charter of Whateer Corporation; of firemen of Pawtuxet, for amendment of act of incorporation; of Charles P. Manchester, et al, for act of incorporation of Pawtucket Gas Company; of George H. Olney, et al, of Richmond, for bank charter; of Wm. Boyd for remission of juror's fine; of Augustus C. Mau for remission of juror's fine; act in relation to the boundary line between Providence and Cranston.

The Senate then resumed the consideration of the act amending the Militia act, which, having been read through by sections and amended, was finally passed by the following vote:—ayes 21; noses 4. The Senate then adjourned.

HOUSE.—The order of the day being an act in amendment of an act entitled an act enabling Town Councils to grant licences for retailing strong liquors and for other purposes, and of the several acts in amendment thereof. After a long debate the question was taken upon the passage of the bill, the House was called, and the vote stood as follows:—ayes 49; noses 12.

Petition of Fire Engine Company of Wickford, for amendment of charter filed and act passed.

To-morrow afternoon was assigned, for the consideration of the act providing for the registering of births, marriages, and deaths. Adjourned.

At the Legislature Agricultural Meeting at the State House in Boston, on Tuesday evening, a letter was read from Dr. A. A. Hayes, the well known chemist, stating that he had discovered potatoes, exposed to sulphuric acid gas, were cured of taint.

HEZEKIAH TAYLOR of Westfield, has five pairs of Steers whose aggregate weight is 20,220. The several pairs weighed as follows: 4620, 4620, 3960, 3860, 3760.

CHOLERA AT ST. LOUIS.—The Dispatch states that there were 21 deaths of cholera at St. Louis during the week ending the 13th ult.

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UMBRELLA CASE.—A man named Gideon Williams, of North Providence, was fined last Wednesday three dollars and costs, amounting to six dollars and fifty-five cents for neglecting to return a borrowed umbrella when requested to do so—a cheering evidence of the advance of good morals in that region.

CAPT. STURGIS, of the revenue cutter Hamilton, states that she has saved 11 lives, relieved 130 vessels, and boarded 1550.

AMONG the narrow escapes, at the Hague st. affair, was one of a lad, who, with his dinner pail in his hand was in the act of entering the fatal building when the explosion took place, and he suddenly saw the walls tumbling over his head. With one spring he gained the middle of the street, and luckily escaped without a bruise; but a portion of the brick work struck his pail, and jammed it entirely out of shape.

DEATH OF COMMODORE TURNER.—How appalling is Death, even in his mildest form, and in his most gradual approach! When he comes in the aspect of disease, and takes us from the good, the mind is in some degree prepared to encounter the shock, and to sustain it with resignation. It is an occurrence that we are destined to meet in our pilgrimage through life. But it is a calamity too overwhelming for the fortitude of humanity, when he rushes upon us without intimation—prostrating at a single unexpected blow, all that was estimable in worth, and rending the tenderest ties of family affection.

The Philadelphia papers of Tuesday, announce the sudden death of Commodore Daniel Turner, of the Navy, which occurred in that city on Monday evening last. He had been in command of the Navy Yard at Portsmouth, N. H., and had just arrived from there with his family. Up to the moment of his death, he was in the enjoyment of his usual health; his complaint was an affection of the heart. Com. Turner was a native of New Jersey, but, at the time of his entering the service was a citizen of this place. His first commission was dated January 1, 1808. He received his present commission March 3, 1836, and at the time of his decease stood the eighteenth on the list of captains in the service.

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As a brother, he was truly kind and attentive—his sisters relied upon him, and always felt a confidence and security in his affectionate protection. He was a brave officer, a loving husband, and a worthy man. But who can tell what an hour may bring forth! In the prime of his life, and in the midst of his usefulness, has he been summoned from the endearments of this world, to a station beyond the skies.

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THE N. Y. TRIBUNE in speaking of those who are entitled to credit for their praiseworthy acts at the late explosion says:—

PLAID LONG and SQUARE SHAWLS, 4-4
Plaid Shawls, for Children's wear, at
JAMES H. HAMMETTS.

FOR SALE,

ALL the LAND late belonging to Nathan Stanton, situated near the Wind Mills, containing about 23 acres. Those wishing to purchase will call at No. 10 Market square.

GILBERT STANTON, *Assignees.*
JOB F. STANTON,
Newport, April 7, 1849.—tf.

REMOVAL,

SIMON MOFFITT having removed his depot to SHERMAN STREET, about 8 rods South east from his former location, keeps constantly, a variety of Window Frames & Sashes,—glazed and unglazed; Blinds and Doors,—of various sizes.—He also manufactures Lock Sashes, of a superior kind, for strength and durability.

Having fitted up his shop in first rate order, he is able to turn out large or small JOBS with neatness and dispatch, and on the most reasonable terms. All those in want of such work, are respectfully invited to call and see for themselves.

N. B.—Building and Repairing particularly attended to.

Newport, Oct. 1, 1848.—tf.

Farm For Sale,

THAT VALUABLE and pleasant FARM, about three miles from Newport on the West road, leading to Bristol Ferry, in Middletown, containing about one hundred acres of first quality and highly cultivated tillage land, with two good dwelling-houses, out kitchen, wood house, milk room, ice house, carriage house and stable, crib, and several other small buildings. The whole Farm is walled in from 3 to 8 acres, with two orchards, a large garden, and about one acre of land on the west shore below the farm bought for the purpose of taking sea-weed and sand for the use of the Farm. For terms of payment, which will be liberal, apply to

STEPHEN T. NORTHAM,
in Newport.

ACCOUNT BOOKS

LEDGERS, JOURNALS, CASH, DAY BOOKS, WASTE
And all other kinds in general use,
For sale at JAMES HAMMOND'S.

NATIONAL PSALMIST

And other Sacred MUSIC, for sale at
JAMES HAMMOND'S.

NAUTICAL AND SURVEYING BOOKS

BOWDITCH'S NAVIGATOR,
BLUNT'S AMERICAN COAST PILOT,
SHIP MASTER'S ASSISTANT,
FLINT'S SURVEYING, with a system of Ge-
ometry and Trigonometry,
GIBSON'S SURVEYING,
—A L S O —

GUNTER'S SCALES and DIVIDERS,
LOG PAPER, SEAMAN'S JOURNALS,
LOG SLATES, PARALLEL RULES,
DRAWING PAPER, MOUTH GLUE,
CRAYONS, LEAD PENCILS, SHIPPING PA-
PER or PORTAGE BILLS,
BILLS OF LADING, MANIFESTS,
—AND OTHER—
COMMERCIAL BLANKS,
at JAMES HAMMOND'S.

Dec. 8.]

BONNET, Cap, Belt and Neck RIBBONS
dark KID GLOVES, all sizes and colour;
at JAS. H. HAMMETT'S.

FOR SALE

A NEW two-story Stone House, situated on a Spring street, about 4 of a mile south of the compact part of the town. This House is very commodious and well finished, has a patent Cooking Range; bathing room, force pumps for rain and well water, &c.; and commands a fine view of the town and harbor, and of the adjacent farms, with nothing to interrupt the prospect on either side. For further information apply to,

R. P. LEE,
At the R. I. Union Bank.
Newport, March 31—tf.

I bought my BOOTS,

SHOES AND RUBBERS,
—AT—
NORMAN'S,

No. 17 THAMES ST., CORNER OF MARKET SQUARE.



I. H. P. & CO.

SCHOOL BOOKS.
Such as are used in this town and vicinity, constantly for sale at
JAMES HAMMOND'S.

October 6, 1849.

Rich Dress Silks,
H E B D O N S,
SILK CASHMERE,
Rich Mousseline de Laine,
P R I N T S,
LONG and SQUARE SHAWLS,
Cashmere Mantles,
And other seasonable goods, now opening.
F. LAWTON & BROTHERS.

BUTTER & CHEESE—40 kegs Western Butter; 50 boxes Cheese, for sale by
NEWTON BROTHERS,
Oct. 27.]

186 & 188 Thames street.

NEW BOOKS.—The Watchmaker, or Family Manœuvres; The Nun, or the inside of a Convent; Confessions of Con; Cregarr; The Irish Gil Blas, by Charles Lever; The Maiden and Married Life of Mary Powell, afterwards Mistress Milton; Mary Moreton, or the Broken Promise, by T. S. Arthur. Just received at

TILLEY'S,

122 Thames street.

Jan. 19, 1850]

122 Thames street.

JOB PRINTING,
Executed with new and
fashionable type, and
on the most reasonable
terms, at the
MERCURY OFFICE.

FALL SUPPLY of WOOLEN STOCKING FARM, all colours and sizes, just received
JAMES H. HAMMETT'S.

Newport, Sept. 8, 1849.

COMMISSIONER'S & ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE.

THE subscribers having been appointed by the Court of Probate of the town of Newport, Commissioners to receive and examine the claims against the estate of
DANIEL BURDICK,
of Newport, Mariner, dec., represented insolvent, hereby give public notice that 6 months from this date, are allowed the creditors of said state to present and prove their respective claims and we will meet at the office of G. G. Cook, on the last Thursdays of September, October and November next, at 2 o'clock, P. M., for the purpose of examining and deciding on said claims.

CHARLES DEVENS,
CHAS. E. HAMMETT, *Comm'r.*
DAVID G. COOK.

All persons indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment to
MARGARET D. BURDICK, *Administrator.*

Newport, June 4, 1849.

The time for receiving claims on the above mentioned Estate is extended for two months longer, and meetings will be held on the last Thursdays of December and January.

Dec. 8.

For New York, Direct.

WINTER ARRANGEMENT.

The steamboat EMPIRE STATE, Capt. Constock, will leave Fall River every Monday, Wednesday and Friday evening, on the arrival of the steamboat train of cars from Boston for New York via Newport; leaving Newport at 8 o'clock, and arrive in New York at about 6 o'clock next morning. Returning, will leave New York at 4 o'clock, P. M.

The STATE OF MAINE, Capt. Jewett, will leave Fall River every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, as above, for New York, via Newport, leaving Newport at about 8 o'clock, and on her return, leaving New York at 4 P. M. For further information enquire of the Agent.

ANTHONY STEWART.

Nov. 24—tf.

TO LET,

THAT well known estate in Broad street, near the State House, formerly occupied by Mr. Joseph Fish, as a Boarding House. It contains 20 Rooms, with a Cook House, and every necessary convenience. The House is good repair, and its location will be found very convenient for travellers or persons having business with the Courts or the General Assembly. It will be leased in two tenements if wanted. For further particulars and terms apply to

JOSEPH ANTHONY.

Newport, Oct. 27, 1849.

MURRAY HOUSE.

THIS desirable Boarding House, so central and airy, will be continued open for permanent and transient boarders, during the year, and a share of patronage is respectfully solicited.

WM. B. WILSON. Proprietor.

Newport, Sept. 15, 1848.—tf.

1850 ALMANACS

OLD FARMERS, Churchman's, Rhode Island Christian Family. For sale at Nov. 3.] JAMES HAMMOND'S.

Smoke House.

HAMS CURED AND SMOKED.

THE SUBSCRIBERS have enlarged their Brick Smoke House, and are now prepared to cure and smoke Hams and other meat in the best manner, and on reasonable terms. The smoke is made from hard wood and coals.

JOHN W. DAVIS & SON.

Newport, Sept. 29, 1849.—tf.

TO LET,

and possession given immediately.

THE DWELLING HOUSE on the south side of Washington square, (near of the PARK HOUSE,) lately occupied by Mrs. H. Irish. For further particulars apply to the house next west.

[Aug. 11.

WOOLEN GOODS.—Broadcloths, Beaver-cloths, Pilot cloths, Kerseymeres; Country wool, all wool Flannels, with a great variety of other goods, for sale very cheap, by

H. SESSIONS.

BLEACHED and Unbleached SHEETINGS and SHIRTINGS, Crash Diapers, &c., just received by JAMES H. HAMMETT.

August 18.

COPPER & IRON PUMPS.

among which may be enumerated—Farnam's patent Double Action Forging and Suction; patent Hydraulics; Double action lift and force, ship & steamboat Pumps, and a great variety of others, which will be fitted in the best manner and warranted not to fail, until worn out.

A large supply of LEAD PIPE is kept on hand, which will be fitted to order in any style that may be desired.

A large assortment of such articles as are usually found in an establishment of this kind on hand and for sale. All kinds of Job Work will be carefully attended to on the most reasonable terms. Orders left at the store will be executed with despatch.

A share of public patronage is solicited and the most ample satisfaction will be given. Store second door north of the Custom House.

Newport, 1850.] NATHAN M. CHAFFEE.

CLOTHING

JUST RECEIVED AT THE

OREGON CLOTHING STORE

A Large and Extensive assortment of FASHIONABLE

READY MADE CLOTHING.

Adapted expressly to the FALL and WINTER trade. Consisting in part, of Blue, Black, and Brown Overcoats and Sacks. Under Sacks of the best quality from English, French and German cloths. Sattin Coats and Sacks of every grade. A large assortment of Pants, consisting of Blue and Black Broadcloths and Cassimères, Striped and Fancy Doeskins, Sattinets, Vermont Cloths, Kentucky Jeans, &c. &c.

A good assortment of Winter Vests, made of Broadcloth, Doeskin and Cassimere. Also Vests of Silk and Satin, Valencia, Marseilles, Italian Cloth, and a great variety of styles too numerous to mention.

Fine Goods always on hand and made to order. Shirts, Bousoms, Collars, Suspenders, Gloves, Stockings, Cravats, Socks, worn under Shirts and Drawers, and all other articles usually kept in a general furnishing and outfitting establishment.

HATS AND CAPS

of the latest styles, and for sale cheap.

Besides the above we have on hand a large lot of TRUNKS, VALICES & CARPET BAGS, which may, as usual, be found here cheaper than elsewhere.

Call and see for yourselves at the

OREGON CLOTHING STORE,

Corner of Thames and Franklin Streets.

Newport, October 13, 1849.

JOB PRINTING,

Executed with new and
fashionable type, and
on the most reasonable
terms, at the
MERCURY OFFICE.

F. LAWTON & BROTHERS.

Oct. 27.]

186 & 188 Thames street.

NEW BOOKS.—The Watchmaker, or Family Manœuvres; The Nun, or the inside of a Convent; Confessions of Con; Cregarr; The Irish Gil Blas, by Charles Lever; The Maiden and Married Life of Mary Powell, afterwards Mistress Milton; Mary Moreton, or the Broken Promise, by T. S. Arthur. Just received at

TILLEY'S,

122 Thames street.

Jan. 19, 1850]

122 Thames street.

JAMES H. HAMMETT'S.

Newport, Sept. 8, 1849.

JOHN W. PECKHAM.

Newport, May 12, 1849.—tf.

WM. G. PECKHAM.